

Message Text

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17

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9202

INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IN, US

SUBJ: INDIAN COMMENTS ABOUT THE US

1. SEVERAL INDIAN OFFICIALS SPOKE AT A PUBLIC MEETING IN NEW DELHI ON JUNE 11 ORGANIZED BY A COMMUNIST-FRONT ORGANIZATION IN HONOR OF THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PRG IN NEW DELHI. LEFTIST GOI MINISTER FOR STEEL AND MINES CHANDRAJIT YADAV WAS PRESENT AND ADVERTISED AS A SPEAKER; HE DID NOT, HOWEVER, SPEAK. THE VICE CHANCELLOR OF NEHRU UNIVERSITY, DR. B.D. NAG CHAUDHURI, SPOKE BUT LIMITED HIMSELF TO EXPRESSING THE SOLIDARITY OF THE PEOPLE OF INDIA WITH THE PEOPLE OF VIETNAM AND REMARKED THAT INDIA WOULD DO WHATEVER IT COULD TO REBUILD VIETNAM.

2. THE ONLY INDIAN OFFICIAL TO JOIN IN LEFTIST ATTACKS ON THE US WAS DR. S.D. SHARMA, MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND FORMER CONGRESS PARTY PRESIDENT. SHARMA, WHO REPRESENTS THE FAR LEFT IN THE CONGRESS PARTY, SPOKE EXTEMPORANEOUSLY IN HINDI AND WAS SHARPLY CRITICAL. HE NOTED WHAT HE SAID WERE MRS. HANDHI'S EARLIER REMARKS

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THAT THE VIETNAMESE COULD NOT BE COWED BY THE GREATEST

POWER ON EARTH, CRITICIZED THE US PARTICIPATION IN THE WAR IN VIETNAM AND CLAIMED THAT THE US WAS NOW LOOKING FOR NEW PLACES TO CARRY OUT ITS STRATEGIES, CITING THE RESUMPTION OF "ARMS AID TO PAKISTAN". HE ALSO REFERRED TO CIA ACTIVITIES AROUND THE WORLD AND SAID THAT "OUTSIDE FORCES" WERE PROVIDING MONEY TO REACTIONARY ELEMENTS IN INDIA. HE CLAIMED THAT THE US HAD FAILED TO LEARN A LESSON FROM ITS DEFEAT IN CAMBODIA AND VIETNAM. NO TEXT OF SHARMA'S REMARKS IS AVAILABLE.

3. SHARMA'S REMARKS WERE SUMMARIZED BRIEFLY IN THE INSIDE PAGES OF SEVERAL OF DELHI'S ENGLISH-LANGUAGE NEWSPAPERS.
SCHNEIDER

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